

GRIM VISAGED WAR.

They Are Not Smoothing His Ruffled Front

BUT BUILDING ANGEL MAKERS

At a Rapid Rate—Secretary Proctor Tells of Big Guns and Little.

How to Make Good Indians and How to Improve Our Infantry Service — The Pension Bureau—Coast Defenses Being Constructed.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20.—The report of Secretary of War Proctor handed to the president a short time ago was made public.

In submitting to you this report it seems proper as a preliminary to such comment

ures affecting the department which have been inaugurated during your administration.

neering work has been begun on batteries for mortars and emplacements for guns at

at Watervliet has been completed and is nearly equipped. A south wing, doubling

manufacture by the government of ninety-eight breech-loading, steel rifled guns of high power and 100 more have been con-

three twelve-inch mortars are also under construction.

towns and rural communities, and the recruits are held on probation and their ante-

entitled to a discharge at the end of three years of faithful service, and are permitted

established for the speedy trial of petty offenses. If the men desire it, competent officers are assigned to defend them before

defined and limited. Sunday inspections and tattoo roll-call have been abolished; schools and gymnasia established. These

percentage of desertions to a lower point than ever before in the history of the army and in the last year have reduced

A system of examination of officers for promotion has been established, and their

the army. The retired list has been relieved by appropriate legislation. An efficiency record of officers has been kept, en-

In pursuance of a policy of concentrating the troops in larger posts, about one-fourth of the number of posts occupied in 1889 have

employment of contract surgeons, in addition to the regular medical corps, has been completely dispensed with. The license

has been successfully undertaken. The detail of officers to colleges has been

more rapidly under increased appropriations and a reorganization of the work. The military and hospital records of the

of pension claims has been expedited, and the preservation of these valuable records for effective use is well toward completion.

COAST DEFENSE.
The problem of adequate coast defense

there has been much discussion and some differences of individual opinion in respect to the rapidity with which the work should

gress and by the public press as a national concern—a thoroughly American policy. Nor is it a new departure. The report of

coast defense "were not surpassed by those of any country for efficiency either for

there was a most rapid development in the means of offensive warfare, while the forti-

In 1883 congress provided for a joint

for the manufacture of heavy ordnance for the use of the army and navy, and the cost

and the principal steel manufactories of this country, submitted a report in 1884

water-violet arsenal, West Troy, N. Y., and another for the navy in this city, and that our steel manufacturers should be encour-

In 1885 congress provided that a board

should be a member and president, should examine and report at what ports fortifica-

to armament and the utilization of torpedoes, mines or other defensive appliances.

at the twenty-six principal ports, and with less detail, provisions for the defense of the lake frontier. Simultaneously with the in-

subject, the senate by a select committee on ordnance and war-ships, of which Gen. Hawley was chairman, and the house by a

ports of these committees, made in 1886, are replete with valuable information. The

every point of view, were harmonious, and their several reports furnish all the details

of legislation and appropriations of congress which have inaugurated our present definite policy in respect to coast defenses.

tant feature. We have some 4000 miles of sea-coast, exclusive of Alaska. No great naval power has more than a few hundred

tions and high-power guns. The cost of land defenses has not increased as rapidly
